

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

June 14, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Toby Strout, Ted Mendoza.

Regrets: Janice Lilly, Dave Rollo, Amanda Figolah, Cynthia Schultz, Michael Beczkiewicz

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Ann Kreilkamp

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**Public comment:** Ann Kreilkamp asked for clarification of BCOS's mission.

**Announcements:**

The local chapter of USGBC is hosting its first webinar series starting this Thursday at Rachael's Café. Ted, Heidi, and Dave Gulyas (all members of the steering committee for the local chapter) will also be giving a green building class through People's University.

There will be a class on orchard pests at the Community Orchard on Saturday.

There will be a meeting on the Green Network News website this Thursday, 11am.

There will be a hearing at 3pm on the proposed county stormwater utility fee.

For National Bike to Work Day, Bloomingfoods will have food giveaways. Jacqui will also be guiding a targeted women's ride over lunch the same day (May 20). This will be a public event.

IU will be holding its annual E-waste day this Saturday, May 14.

SIREN and Earth Care will host an event on renewable energy on May 18 at First United Methodist Church.

There will be a workshop on raising poultry through Purdue Extension on May 19 and 26.

**Approval of the minutes:** The minutes from the April 2011 meeting were approved.

**Community Gardening/Yardsharing/Gift economy**

Ann Kreilkamp lead a short discussion about yardsharing (examples include [www.yardsharing.org](http://www.yardsharing.org) (in Portland), Hyperlocavore.com, sharingbackyards.com). This is a way

to link people with land to people who are interested in gardening. She encouraged BCOS to find ways to develop this idea locally, either using these sites or another targeted more specifically at Bloomington.

She also raised the idea of finding ways to facilitate the sharing of items among community residents—perhaps a flatbed truck that shares vegetables, compost/mulch, healthy snacks, unneeded items. It could have a regular route to encourage people to donate and reuse.

### **Report from the Chair**

Maggie reported on her discussions with BCOS members on their interests. One suggestion was to have a mixer to help BCOS members get to know each other. Maggie tentatively suggested August 9.

Other ideas of interest are transportation, waste, green businesses.

Maggie asked if anyone is willing to work on a policy for BCOS members taking stances in public forums—eg for writing columns, etc. Toby will work with Maggie on this.

January Jones at WFHB has asked for regular input from BCOS for CATS Week. Heidi suggested that we start with energy and the newly adopted targets from the STAR committee. Cynthia would probably be the best person for this topic—Heidi will follow through with Cynthia and January.

The Communications committee might be a good next topic to kick off the GNN Bloomington website.

Monroe County is working to create a new sustainability commission, and is collecting applications. There will likely be an appointee from either the Environmental Commission or BCOS—this decision will be at the Mayor's discretion.

Maggie proposed (per a suggestion from Amanda) that BCOS invite the energy efficiency coordinator from the Monroe County Community School Corporation to a future meeting.

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

Downtown recycling drop-off center: the proposal went before the Plan Commission last night and should still be on target for a June opening.

Collections for the Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale have kicked off and are going well. Since the venue and storage location have changed, it's difficult to compare the amount from the dorms to last year, but there have been many more off-campus requests for pick-ups.

### **Committee Reports:**

*STAR*: The committee is continuing to pursue a web-based report to allow for easy updates. The committee will start looking at transportation and other topics, and examining possible targets for those categories.

Bill indicated that IU will be adding 46 kilowatts of renewable power generation this year, so that may mean we will get pretty close to the renewable energy target just based on IU's contribution.

*Water:* The committee hosted a rainbarrel workshop on April 30 at Harmony School. Twenty-nine were sold to participants and one was created for Harmony to use.

Melissa will now be focusing on the Little Drip, to encourage water conservation in the community through school curriculum.

*Energy:* No report from the committee beyond the STAR report, but Jacqui noted that there will be a meeting on June 1 to discuss community strategies for energy efficiency and renewables.

*Food:* Dave P. reported on the upcoming survey of existing food/vegetable gardens in the city. That will be going out soon.

He will also start participating in the Planning Department discussions about the updates to urban agriculture in the Unified Development Ordinance.

*ECPC:* We still need a representative. Maggie will fill in in the interim.

*Communications:* There will be a meeting this Thursday to finish up the Green Network News ([www.gnnbloomington.com](http://www.gnnbloomington.com)) website and get it ready to be made public.

#### **Old Business:**

Dawn Hewitt is almost done with her story on soil erosion on the 45/46 Bypass. Heidi and Maggie are working on a guest column to run at the same time on why erosion is important. It's expected to be published on Friday May 20.

#### **New Business:**

*Cool roofs:* Dave P. discussed the importance of reducing urban heat island effect, and how we could encourage cool roofs as a way to reduce this problem.

He shared proposed language on a recommendation BCOS could make regarding cool roof/white roof requirements. Members noted that there may be resistance to these regulations. The next steps are likely to include a discussion with Planning to determine how to proceed. Maggie and Dave P. will follow up with Tom Micuda.

Dave R. mentioned that the EC has also been interested in heat island effect and has inventoried trees as part of their efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.